

Saddam: Evil forces behind sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, re-elected leader of the ruling Baath Party, accused "forces of evil" for maintaining crippling sanctions on Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said on Sunday. "In his address he (Saddam) tackled the harsh conditions from which the Iraqi people suffer as a result of the unfair embargo which the forces of evil and rancour insist to maintain," INA said after President Saddam's re-election at a two-day party conference. INA said President Saddam made the remarks in a three-hour address to the conference, which ended on Sunday. It said all senior Baath officials retained their posts but President Saddam rejected a motion to name him party chief for life. The party conference, the second since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, elected 16 members for the party's regional command, the highest authority in Iraq after the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice-chairman, kept his position as President Saddam's deputy in the Baath Party leadership. Taha Yassin Ramadan, vice-president and RCC member, also retained a seat in party leadership as did Tareq Aziz.

Volume 19 Number 5963

AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 10, 1995, SAFAR 12, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jewish women delegation in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Mawla Sunday received a Jewish delegation representing the Conservative Jewish Women in the United States, and reviewed with them Jordan's pivotal role in the Middle East peace process and its genuine interest in achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. Addressing the delegation, Mr. Mawla said Jordan is heading towards building democratic life in which people take part in the decision-making process and where people are able to elect their representatives in Parliament. Mr. Mawla cited the issuance of five dailies, seven weeklies and 17 party newspapers as a live example of the freedom of opinion and expression, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. Referring to the women's status in Jordan, Mr. Mawla said women employees account for 16 per cent of the total labour force in Jordan. The Jewish Women Federation in the United States includes 1,500 women and 700 local groups from North America, Israel and England.

Olmert presses push on Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In its latest move against Jerusalem's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters, the municipality on Sunday ordered an unlicensed trailer on the grounds to be removed or demolished within 30 days. Jerusalem's hawkish mayor, Ehud Olmert, has said he would use all legal means to prevent PLO political activity in the city. He was especially angry after the Palestinians, in a show of independence, last month revived a city council that ran East Jerusalem until 1967. In response, the mayor threatened to seek a court order to shut down the Orient House unless its owners applied to the Olmert administration to have a zoning permit changed from hotel to office use. Such an application would imply that the PLO officials recognised Israeli sovereignty in the city. Mr. Olmert said at the time, building inspectors delivered a written warning to the Orient House, saying the trailer on the grounds would have to be removed or demolished within a month, said a spokeswoman.

'Syrian Jews smuggled oldest Bible'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jews from Syria have secretly carried what is reputed to be the world's oldest Bible back to Israel page by page, ending a 1,000-year odyssey, a newspaper reported Sunday. Written on parchment, or tanakh, the Old Testament, or tanakh, Hebrew, was taken from the Turks in 1071 and taken to Egypt. It was kept in the Cairo synagogue until the 14th century when descendants of Maimonides transferred it to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The great scholar, who died in 1204, is said to have used the book as the basis for his rabbinical decrees which are still observed today. "The Crown of Aleppo," as it came to be called, was jealously guarded by generation after generation, who even refused to let Jews from outside the local community see the book. The Yediot Acharonot daily said many of the pages bear the inscription "Blessed be he who preserves this, a curse upon he who sells this, a curse upon he who steals this."

Israelis dismantle bomb in Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops defused a large bomb on Sunday placed near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, security sources and settlers said. It was the second bomb in a week to target Israeli settlements in Gaza.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جريدة الأردن تابع لمؤسسة جريدة الأردنية - الرأي**IAEA satisfied with Iraq monitoring**

BAGHDAD (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) now has three experts based in Iraq monitoring some 150 sites to prevent Baghdad reviving nuclear plans, a senior IAEA official said on Sunday. Maurizio Zifferero, IAEA's deputy director, also said at the end of a visit his agency considered reports which alleged Iraq was pursuing a clandestine nuclear programme by building computer models had received too much attention. "I think this matter attracted too much attention. Let us say that we are satisfied this issue is not important," Mr. Zifferero told Reuters at the end of several days of high-level talks with his Iraqi counterparts. "The long-term monitoring is fully established and running," he added, saying IAEA officials had free access to carry out spot checks. The U.N. official responsible for dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Rolf Ekeus, had already given Iraq a clean bill of health on nuclear weapons, but he says doubts remain over Baghdad attempts to build biological weapons, and in particular what happened to large quantities of "growth media" Iraq imported before the Gulf war.

Israel, PLO race to meet deal deadline

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), racing to seal a deal to widen Palestinian self-rule, prepared on Sunday to take their talks out of the Middle East spotlight — probably to Italy.

Officials close to the talks said they would likely move to Italy on Wednesday or Thursday after both Israelis and Palestinians met U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross, due in the region on Monday.

Mr. Ross would discuss arranging for a signing ceremony in Washington, probably the first week of August, they said.

The two sides are trying to nail down an accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to more of the West Bank.

The officials disclosed it would be at least the third time talks would take place in Italy. Palestinian officials said they expected the new talks would take place not in Rome but at a scheduled place away from external pressures.

In an interview with the Arabic-language Al Rayah newspaper of Qatar, Dr. Shaath reiterated the Palestinian demand that Arab East Jerusalem should be the capital of the independent

negotiator, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat both said the sides still aimed to meet the latest accord deadline — July 25 — which they set last week.

"We hope on the 25th of July we will have an agreement," Mr. Arafat told reporters in Gaza, Mr. Sarid said. "It will be difficult but possible."

A Palestinian minister said Sunday the PLO and Israel might miss the July 25 deadline.

Nabil Shaath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestine National Authority, said the next stage of the 1993 Oslo agreement could not be implemented unless Israel freed Palestinian prisoners or agreed to a timetable for their release.

The Israelis released some 4,500 Arab prisoners as a goodwill gesture after the Oslo accord was signed. But Israel still holds as many as 5,500, about half of the arrested since the 1993 agreement.

The sides also have yet to agree on a date for Palestinian elections or on how many people may serve on the Palestinian council. Disagreement remains on whether Jerusalem Palestinians may vote in the Holy City or stand for elections.

state the Palestinians seek. Dr. Shaath said that normalising economic relations between Israel and the Arab countries should be preceded by real progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, opening the way for a final settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Israeli chief negotiator Uri Savir was due to meet his Palestinian counterpart Ahmad Qourie, also known as Abu Ala, on Sunday. But Abu Ala was abroad.

The two sides must hammer out security issues, especially in rural areas. They must also agree on security arrangements for Hebron where 400 Jewish settlers live among 100,000 Palestinians.

"There are still a few problems — jurisdiction, sharing of responsibility in the rural area, Hebron city. So there are still many problems to solve," Mr. Savir told reporters.

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(Continued on page 7)

Israeli dart shell kills 2 girls in South Lebanon

NABATIYEH (Agencies) — Two sisters were killed and five other people were wounded when an Israeli shell packed with internationally-banned metal darts hit a house in South Lebanon during a night-time bombardment, police sources reported Sunday.

They said the shell fired by a tank in the Israeli-occupied sector along the border was an anti-personnel flechette munition. It scatters metal darts in all directions when it explodes.

It was the second time this year that the Israelis have used this type of weapon, designed to inflict a large number of casualties, the police sources said.

The casualties raised the toll so far this year in South Lebanon, the last active warfront in the Arab-Israeli conflict, to 103 killed and 244 wounded.

It was not clear what provoked the Israeli bombardment. But in recent weeks, guerrillas of Hizbullah have intensified their attacks on the Israelis and their militia allies in the occupied enclave.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin criticised the army Sunday for the shelling and said the tank fire that killed the sisters was unnecessary.

Mr. Rabin made his remarks during the weekly cabinet session, the radio said.

Last month, Mr. Rabin lashed out at Israel's militia allies in the so-called "security zone," the South Lebanon Army (SLA), for firing at

Israeli forces as the circle of deadly violence escalated, military officials said.

The rockets, which caused neither casualties nor damage were fired in reprisal for Israeli shelling which killed two Lebanese teenagers and wounded five more late Saturday.

A small fire which broke out in one of the fields was quickly extinguished.

The officials did not say how many salvos were fired.

The rockets exploded in fields in open countryside at two locations near the border in western and northern Galilee. Hizbullah claimed the attack over its radio the Voice of Islam.

one but causing no injuries, they said.

Israeli gunboats have imposed a fishing blockade off south Lebanon for six

days, Israel Radio reported.

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days, Israel Radio reported.

He must meet... with Mr. Rabin," Mr. Weizman said. "If he thinks it dishonourable and unpleasant, then there is

a problem."

(Continued on page 7)

Suffering of Iraqis should not be ignored — Sheikh Hamad

LONDON (Agencies) — The new ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, has expressed his full support for U.N. resolutions on Iraq though he said it was a "mistake" to ignore the hardships of the Iraqi people.

In an interview with the BBC World Service TV Arabic language service — his first since deposing his father in a bloodless coup on June 27 — Sheikh Hamad said Iraq was "the main obstacle" on the road to Arab reconciliation and unity.

"I believe that certain Arab leaders who have an history of presenting initiatives should use the axis of the Arab League and put forward a binding decision that would return some unity to the Arab World," the emir said.

Sheikh Hamad said he would try to resolve Qatar's border conflicts with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

"It is not easy to repair the damage done by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and make it disappear but that is what

ignore it is not in the interest of the Arab Nation," he said.

He said he had the "sincere intention" of resolving a dispute with Riyadh over a border region which caused clashes in 1992. Saudi Arabia recognised Sheikh Hamad shortly after the palace coup.

He also indicated that Qatar was considering withdrawing a complaint against Bahrain before the World Court. The two countries are embroiled in a dispute over the Hawar Islands lying between them in the Gulf.

"I do not believe that there are any genuine efforts to heal the rift," he added, calling the present time "the hardest period that the Arab World has ever faced."

"I believe that certain Arab leaders who have an history of presenting initiatives should use the axis of the Arab League and put forward a binding decision that would return some unity to the Arab World," the emir said.

"As for the peace process, I believe that after the Madrid conference where all the Arab countries were represented, we in Qatar have

rounded (by the Serbs), and refused to surrender. Negotiations went on presumably, we do not have reports of them being attacked, and they agreed to go with the Serbs," Mr. Ettashany said.

The last five to be detained, those whereabouts is not known, were taken by the Serbs Sunday afternoon as they overran a U.N. observation post lying along the southern fringe of the enclave, a U.N. spokesman said.

Three other posts in the same area where the Serbs have concentrated their attack on the government-held enclave in eastern Bosnia ended up in Serb hands on Saturday in similar circumstances.

A total of 15 Dutch U.N. soldiers from two of these posts are in a Serb-held town 10 kilometres north of Srebrenica. Eight Dutch troops who had refused to surrender to the Serbs on Saturday were taken to Bratunac Sunday afternoon, U.N. spokesman Rida Ettashany said.

"They had been surrounded by Serbs and refused to

call them prisoners of war, we would not call them prisoners but they were taken away by Serb forces to Bratunac," the official said.

The enclave where some 44,000 people are besieged

(Continued on page 7)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday attends a graduation ceremony of students from the military wing of Muta University (Armed Forces photo)

Regent urges new officers to boost role of Armed Forces

MUTA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday attended the graduation of the eighth batch of students from the military wing of Muta University and urged the new officers to help strengthen the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Regent said that the Armed Forces had a pivotal role to play in invigorating the Kingdom's message at the Arab, Islamic, regional and international levels besides strengthening the country's achievements.

"You are also called on to enhance the spirit of national belonging and this should be clearly reflected in your work, and I call on you to be keen in the search for more knowledge, remembering that the world is passing through a stage where there is no room for anyone except those who are armed with knowledge," he said.

Jordan, the Prince added, has always been open to various world cultures and working for the future not afraid over the Arab Nation's fate because the Arab Nation has always been unique in

defending all invaders.

"We take pride of our achievements and we are determined to build on these achievements and, therefore, Jordan is in need of the efforts of its citizens and in need of all their potentials with which we can achieve miracles," he added.

Congratulating the graduates on their success in their courses, the Crown Prince urged the officers to serve as soldiers of truth and right and to base their work and endeavours on high morals and to seek justice.

Israel sees beginning of an end to occupation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (TAFF) — Israel is predicting that an impending agreement to spread Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank will signal the end of occupation of Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), with barely a foothold on the West Bank and control of just two-thirds of the Gaza Strip, may beg to differ.

But senior Israeli ministers believe such optimism is not premature. 28 years after the capture of the territories and east Jerusalem.

"It's the beginning of the end not only of occupation but also of the idea of *eretz* (greater) Israel," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters.

"This government is determined to change the rules of the game which have been in force since the 1967 war."

The PLO and Israel have set a July 25 deadline to wrap up the deal to redeploy troops outside Palestinian areas, hand over civilian powers to the authority and hold autonomy elections, and will hold negotiations this week.

"The agreement means the era of occupation is over," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, a former West Bank army commander.

In a first phase of redeployment, Israeli forces are to quit the towns of Kalkilya, Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem. The entire pull-back is due to be completed by mid-1997 in the Israeli project.

"Once you leave these cities there is no going back. It's over," Mr. Ben Eliezer said.

"We should not be afraid of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, on condition that it is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence."

"If we succeed it will be a historic change. If we fail we will pay heavily."

Nonetheless, Mr. Peres reportedly warned the cabinet that the Palestinians were likely to be disappointed, as Israel plans to give them control over only 18 per cent of the West Bank.

In another indication of the ambiguity of the time, an Israeli minister who is traditionally considered a moderate urged the government to annex de facto parts of the West Bank.

Israel and the PLO remain far apart in the complex negotiations.

Negotiators are grappling with a mass of detail to enable an army withdrawal from Arab population areas, autonomy elections and a transfer of civilian powers.

Senior Israeli sources, who refused to be named, summed up the differences:

REDEPLOYMENT: The PLO wants take over all the West Bank, except settlements and access roads, before elections. Joint patrols on the Gaza experience in some areas.

Israel is ready to cede control over major towns with some areas under joint security.

TIMETABLE: Palestinians want precise dates for redeployment from all towns, including Hebron, and villages before elections are held.

Israel refuses to set dates and wants a first stage redeployment before elections with a second, post-election stage to depend on the success of the first.

ELECTIONS: Palestinians refuse to hold elections in the presence of Israeli troops. They want Jerusalem residents to be allowed to run for office as well as vote for the autonomy council which should have 75 members.

The ballot should be held 25 weeks after the signing of the accord.

Israel wants to keep troops in Hebron and parts of Ramallah and Bethlehem as well as maintain control over Arab villages. The council

should have only 35 members. Accord for 700 international observers.

PRISONERS: Palestinians want earliest release of prisoners as a confidence-building measure with a gradual release for all the rest.

Israel is ready to free 2,500 prisoners in two phases, before and after the elections. Convicted killers and common law criminals to stay in jail.

Despite the differences, the July 25 deadline was set after the two sides reached an "understanding" Tuesday on the principles of agreement. They are to resume negotiations this week.

Palestinian negotiator General Abdul Razek Yahiya, who heads a security committee negotiating redeployment with Israeli General Uzi Dayan, confirmed Israeli reports of some details of Friday's Jerusalem Post.

The West Bank will be divided into four zones:

Zones A: Jenin, Nablus, Kalkilya and Tulkarem to be ceded to PLO immediately.

Zone B: Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah, villages and some roads where control will be shared.

Palestinians will run public affairs and maintain order but Israel will have "overriding security responsibility." As bypass roads are built the PLO will gradually take greater control.

Zone C: Israeli security control over uninhabited areas where the Palestinians will have civilian authority.

Zone D: Sole Israeli control over settlements and army bases.

In Cairo, talks are taking place for the handing over of the Palestinians of control over remaining sectors, including agriculture, electricity, gas/petrol, insurance, municipal affairs, postal services, statistics, telecommunications, and water.

The government is taking seriously threats from ex-



VICTIMISED: Relatives of the two teenagers killed Saturday in Israeli shelling of Nahatiyah in South Lebanon cry during their funeral. The two girls aged 16 and 17 were killed in the

convent area of the town, while their three brothers were injured when an Israeli shell destroyed part of their house (see page one) (AFP photo)

Bahraini teenager reportedly dies in jail

NICOSIA (R) — A Bahraini teenager has died 10 days after he was arrested and taken to a hospital in the first such death since anti-government protests died down in April, residents said on Sunday.

They said Said Abdul Rasool Eskafi, 15, was arrested in Sanabis, five kilometres west of the capital Manama, one of a string of Shi'ite Muslim villages close to the capital that were the scene of four months of anti-government protests.

At least 12 civilians and three policemen were killed and hundreds arrested in the four months of unrest.

The interior ministry announced the release of 120 prisoners on April 17 after a similar inquiry into a killing of a Shi'ite dignitary, Sheikh Ali Salman, now a refugee in Britain.

Amnesty International said on March 29 it had the names of 700 people arrested in connection with the violence, but the human rights group estimated that there were many more in custody.

The Bahraini opposition in exile has put the number of arrests at 3,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait bans movie that allegedly insults Islam

KUWAIT (AP) — The Information Ministry Saturday banned an Indian movie that allegedly insults Islam and ordered an investigation on how it was allowed to be screened in theatres. Scores of Kuwaitis, mostly fundamentalist Muslims, had demonstrated outside the government-owned theatre that showed the movie, entitled "Bombay." They alleged that the film, which is also available in video stores, encourages Muslim women to marry Hindus and shows women in Muslim head and face covers dancing in the yard of a mosque. The state-run Kuwait News Agency said the interior minister, Sheikh Saad Al Sabah, ordered "Bombay" withdrawn from video shops.

Iran says 13,000 held on smuggling charges

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian law enforcement agencies have arrested more than 13,000 people for smuggling in three months, a senior officer told Iran's state-run television network Sunday. General Reza Seifollahi, commander of the national law enforcement forces, said they had been involved in smuggling contraband worth millions of dollars, including 800 vehicles and 900 carpets. He said that smuggled currency, including \$1.75 million, 118,000 Japanese yen and 106,000 deutschemarks, was recovered in the operations between March 21 and June 20. Gen. Seifollahi reported that 2,127 people were arrested in one operation alone. It was carried out in late June and netted 2,200,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 200,000 litres of fuel, 15,000 packs of medicine, 1,820 firearms, 220 launches, and boats, and 80 automobiles, the general reported.

Demirel urges Greece to put aside animosity

ANKARA (AP) — President Suleyman Demirel has called on Greece to put aside animosity and solve conflicts peacefully, it was reported on Sunday. Mr. Demirel told the national daily *Hurriyet* in an interview that the Greeks engaged in provocations against Turkey because of a "Turkish complex. If you provoke us, then you will create troubles for yourself," Mr. Demirel said, obviously referring to Greek authorities. He appeared to be referring to the recent meeting of six Greek parliamentarians with the fugitive Turkish Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. A visit by the head of the Turkish Kurdish parliament-in-exile to Athens further upset Turkey. Mr. Demirel also reassured Turkey's earlier statements that a Greek move to extend its territorial waters to 12 miles will lead to war. "This is not a cry for war. It is Turkey's vital interest," Mr. Demirel said.

Israeli army denies Shahak abandoned troops

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army on Sunday defended a man due to join Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet against charges that while army chief in 1992 he abandoned wounded soldiers in a training accident. An Israeli newspaper raised the charges on Friday in a report on Ehud Barak and the incident in which five soldiers from an elite unit were killed and six wounded by a missile accidentally fired during the November 1992 exercise. Yedioth Ahronoth daily quoted witnesses who said that while other officers rushed to help before doctors arrived, General Barak stood with his arms crossed and later left in his helicopter without taking casualties. This year by the lawlessness.

In his statement, Gen. Barak said he had ordered militia leaders to control their armed men.

His statement, made in the name of the "transitional government of Somalia," said the people, already affected by famine, floods, droughts and the effects of civil war, now faced malnutrition, starvation and disease.

In many areas, including the capital, malnutrition and deaths, especially among women and children, had risen sharply since aid agencies had either pulled out or cut their activities following the withdrawal of a U.N. force last March.

There was a lack of food and clean water supplies in many areas, he added.

Tantawi ratifies death sentences handed down to 3 militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's highest ranking Islamic official confirmed on Sunday death sentences on three Muslim militants for killing a police officer and a Christian headmaster in 1993.

The three men — Ahmad Abdul Qadir, Mohammad Fawzi and fugitive Ghario Al Shahat — were sentenced to hang last month by the state supreme court, but the verdict was referred to Grand Mufti Mohammad Tantawi before becoming binding.

Execution cases are routinely referred to Sheikh Tantawi and his endorsements are rarely withheld.

"Shut up, shut up," Judge Ahmad Bahauddin Budour shouted as the defendants yelled accusations of injustice and defiance.

The militants were accused of killing Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Hassan Abdul Shafi in October 1993 in the town of Suez and of wounding two policemen who tried to stop them pasting anti-government posters.

Fikri Fakhri Sergios, headmaster of the Francis

World Bank, PNA sign agreements

GAZA (R) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn signed three agreements with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday and promised to keep up aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in developing self-rule.

"We will seek in everything we do to be supportive and helpful and participate in further developments of your plans for your people and we'll be here as your partners," Mr. Wolfensohn told Mr. Arafat at a joint news conference in Gaza.

The two men signed agreements establishing the World Bank office in Gaza, a trust fund credit in the amount of \$20 million for the rehabilitation of Palestinian education and health sectors, and a development plan for Gaza's sewerage system.

"We are in need of this help because all of our infrastructure was destroyed. We have to start it from zero," Mr. Arafat told the news conference. He thanked Mr. Wolfensohn for his organization's help.

The bank has taken a leading role in coordinating international help for Gaza and the West Bank.

Overseas calls 010230

Central, Amman Telephone 623100

Dr. Ahmad Faruq (—)

Alqaed pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Randa Shabani 995710

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Food Control Centre 637111

Min./Max. temp. 15/27

Amman 23/37

Deserts 15/30

Jordan Valley 21/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Aqaba 30 per cent.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel: 610740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

St. George Church Tel: 422200

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

Other 637111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre

Electric Power Company

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

Other

Min./Max. temp.

Food Control Centre

Electric Power Company

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

Other

Min./Max. temp.

Food Control Centre

Electric Power Company

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

Other

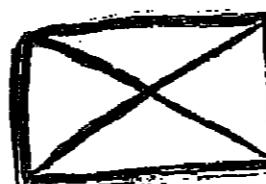
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Food Control Centre

Electric Power Company

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday meets with Ahmad Zubaidi, the head of an Omani educational team visiting Jordan to explore cooperation in educational fields (Petra photo)

Visiting Omani educational team praises work of Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of an Omani educational team, Ahmad Zubaidi, now on a visit to Jordan Sunday said that his country appreciates the role of Jordanian teachers employed in Omani schools and was interested in securing the services of more Jordanian teachers and benefiting from the King's educational expertise.

Mr Zubaidi was speaking at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh with whom he reviewed Omani-Jordanian cooperation in educational

fields. Mr Zubaidi praised the work of Jordanian teachers employed in Oman saying that they proved that they were always up to date with new trends in teaching methods and their work in secondary schools, in particular, has been remarkable and exemplary.

He said he was pleased to see these teachers interacting with the local communities and taking part in social activities in Oman.

For his part Mr Rawabdeh said Jordan was ready to meet the requirements of the

Omani Ministry of Education and supply it with qualified teachers and supervisors and also extend available expertise that would help Oman develop its educational curricula, school textbooks and examination systems as well as train its teachers.

Discussions at the meeting covered the exchange of educational expertise. Mr Rawabdeh outlined the Ministry of Education's plans for teacher training programmes and introducing new curricula and textbooks as well as the construction of new schools.

Committee draws up plans for support of arts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly formed National Committee for Culture and Arts will hold a meeting towards the end of July under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, according to an announcement made by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Sunday.

The committee will discuss and endorse by-laws and a general plan of work as well as sources of funds to finance its activities and cultural projects. Mr. Habashneh said.

The two sub-committees formed by the national committee have held meetings in the past three months to prepare their reports for submission to the upcoming committee meeting, said the minister.

Mr. Habashneh said that

the two sub-committees are preparing working papers and recommendations to enter into the agenda of the planned national committee's two-day meeting to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The National Committee for Culture and Arts was formed in May to advance national culture and to safeguard Arab identity, according to an announcement at the time of its formation.

The prime minister, who addressed the first committee meeting on May 6, said that the committee was formed to support cultural activities and would not act as a substitute for the Ministry of Culture nor as a higher cultural council.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * "Cyrano de Bergerac," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.
- * "The Civil War: Forever Free, 1862," at the American Center, at 5:00 p.m.
- * Japanese film with Arabic subtitles, "The Golden Days of Japanese Cinema," at the Samir Rifai Auditorium, University of Jordan, at 5:00 p.m.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

* By Minister of State Taha Habashneh and Mohammad Tummalah at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Muhammed Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- * Paintings by Adnan Yahya at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.
- * Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.
- * Works by Iraqi artist Tahia Hakim at Al'ad Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani ladies donate to YWMA

Amman (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the Honorary President of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Sunday received a cheque representing the amount of proceeds from a festival sponsored by the Pakistani Ladies in Amman to support the YWMA's projects. The cheque was delivered to Princess Sarvath by Mrs. Sarwar Nagvi, wife of the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Minister opens Arab-Afro youth camp

Amman (Petra) — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat today opens the second Arab-Afro youth camp. Attending the inauguration ceremony will be the Arab League's assistant secretary general, Ahmad Qadri, and senior Ministry of Youth officials. Taking part in the 11-day camp will be 120 youth from 13 Arab and African countries, in addition to Jordan.

Envoy reviews recent Jordan-Yemen accords

Sanaa (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Yemen, Fayez Rabie Sunday discussed with several Yemeni ministers the Jordanian-Yemeni agreements, which were recently concluded.

Australian foreign minister to arrive for talks with senior government officials

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans pays a one-day visit to Jordan this week for talks with Jordanian leaders on bilateral relations, the Arab-Israeli peace process and the economic development of the Middle East in the wake of progress in the peace negotiations.

Mr. Evans, who last visited Jordan in 1992, will arrive from Tunisia on Thursday and leave for Syria and Lebanon Friday afternoon.

Brian Pullen, consul at the Australian embassy here, said the visit was aimed at "furthering the already very good relations between Australia and Jordan."

He said Mr. Evans would hold talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karabati:

Audiences with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have not yet been confirmed.

Mr. Evans' visit will be the second by an Australian minister to Jordan this year. Trade Minister Bob McMullan

visited in February in what was seen as a major boost to Jordanian-Australian trade relations.

During Mr. McMullan's visit, Jordanian and Australian businessmen held talks on means to expand economic cooperation between the two countries, and several business ventures discussed are now taking shape.

According to official Jordanian figures, Australia's exports to Jordan — mostly livestock, meat, rice and dairy products — amounted to about JD 40 million in 1994 while the Kingdom's exports to Australia — phosphates and fertilizer products — were around JD 7 million.

Australia, which has a large agricultural base, could increase its imports from Jordan, officials say.

Also expected to be discussed during Mr. Evans' visit to Jordan are international issues of concern to Jordan and Australia, including the situation in former Yugoslavia, and regional issues such as Iraq.

The role of the Australian public and private sectors in the Middle East and North

Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October is also expected to be reviewed.

On the political front, Australia is a close supporter of the Middle East peace process and has often crossed swords with Israel over Canberra's rejection of policies adopted by the Jewish state.

The Australian government has repeatedly stated that it would like to see peace restored to the Middle East and supports the Arab call for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Beirut embassy to be reopened

While in Lebanon, Mr. Evans, foreign minister since September 1988, who will be accompanied by Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolukas, will reopen the Australian embassy in Beirut on July 18. The mission was closed in 1984 at the height of the Lebanese civil war.

"An era of growth and prosperity beckons in the new Lebanon," the two ministers said in a joint statement on June 27. "We applaud the enthusiasm with which the Lebanese people have embraced the process of national reconciliation and are heartened by the reconstruction now occurring."

It is clear that the renowned capabilities and talents of the Lebanese people are once again finding their fullest expression, to the benefit of their country, and, ultimately, to the wider region."

Australia has a sizeable Lebanese community.

Mr. Evans, 51, served as Australia's attorney general between March 1993 and December 1984, minister of resources and energy between 1984 and July 1987, and minister of transport and communications from July 1987 to September 1988, when he became foreign minister.

Mr. Evans holds first-class honours degrees in law from Melbourne University and in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University.

Prior to entering active politics by becoming a member of the senate in



Gareth Evans

1978, Mr. Evans practised industrial law as well as constitutional and civil liberties law.

He has written several books.

He is best known internationally for his roles in developing the U.N. peace plan for Cambodia, helping to bring to a conclusion the Chemical Weapons Convention and founding the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Two to face trial soon for attack on French diplomat

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prosecutors are expected to send several people to the State Security Court this week on charges of subversion, among them two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March, judicial sources said Sunday.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

Saleem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, both accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

The wife was unharmed.

A police patrol which happened to be in the vicinity

identified as a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, plotted to carry out extremist attacks and targeted foreign tourists, according to the charge sheet.

They made explosive devices and wanted to take over a tourist bus in southern Jordan, but were dissuaded by the presence of security guards around the vehicle.

They panicked and ran away but dropped the bag containing the explosives.

Shortly afterwards, they came across Mr. Heine and his wife who had stopped their car at a scenic spot in Wadi Mujib, engaged the diplomat in a quarrel and shot him in the chest and head, according to the prosecution.

The wife was unharmed.

A police patrol which happened to be in the vicinity

immediately apprehended the two.

Mr. Heine was flown by helicopter to Amman where he underwent treatment before being taken to Paris for recuperation.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said that at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

According to the reports, they mistook the French diplomat and his wife for Israelis and hence the attack. No independent confirmation was available on this version of the incident.

Several theories were for-

warded at the time of the attack as to the motive behind it.

Some said the assailants wanted to kidnap the French diplomat and his wife, others said the attack was spontaneous for some unexplained reason.

The incident took place during the fasting month of Ramadan, sparking speculation that the attack was prompted by behaviour incompatible with the traditions of the holy month on the part of the diplomat and wife.

But the French embassy issued a strong statement affirming that its diplomats were closely familiar with local customs and traditions and respected them in all aspects.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as isolated incident.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karabati swears in new members of the Jordan Press Association (Petra photo)

Shihadeh Abu Bakar, Salam Khurma, Walid Abu Baker, Jihad Abu Baird, Khaled Marzouk, Butush, Khalil Qudah and Fatima Smadi.

Minister swears in new JPA members, says role of press is to serve national interests

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karabati Sunday said that Jordan was currently going through major changes in development and therefore required upgrading its journalistic standards to serve as an example to the rest of the Arab World.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Jordan Press Association (JPA) for the swearing in of 21 new journalists, the minister said that journalists need to fully understand certain conditions involved in their profession.

The minister said that the job of the journalist is not only to relay news but also to guide public opinion and to be totally committed to serving national interests.

The government will not allow any interference in

Jordan's internal affairs by any party or source, the minister stressed.

Dr. Karabati urged journalists to remain committed to the profession and added that whatever is published in the Kingdom is interpreted by readers abroad as Jordan's official message to the outside world.

Describing the relationship between the Ministry of Information, newspaper owners and the JPA as stable, Dr. Karabati said that JPA laws are currently undergoing amendment and are under review by the Lower House of Parliament.

The JPA enjoys the support of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government, the minister said.

The recent government decision to exempt the press from customs duty on imported paper until the end of 1995 reflects the government's determination to back the country's print media, he added.

The newly-inducted members bring the number of active JPA members to 305, according to JPA files.

Present at the ceremony which was addressed by JPA President Suleiman Qudah, was Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Mousa, Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin, and JPA board members.

Following are the names of the journalists who were sworn in:

Oreib Masaadeh, Mohammad Hajjaj, Majdi Alawneh, Khattab Salman, Sinan Shehadeh, Munijah Namirat, Rakan Saadeh, Suleiman Qubeilat, Hikmat Momani, Taher Adwan, Hani Kurdi,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karabati swears in new members of the Jordan Press Association (Petra photo)

Shihadeh Abu Bakar, Salam Khurma, Walid Abu Baker, Jihad Abu Baird, Khaled Marzouk, Butush, Khalil Qudah and Fatima Smadi.

UNDP representative explores agency's potential contribution to MENA summit in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Jorgen Lissner, the new resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, is currently holding talks with Ministry of Planning officials to discuss ways in which the UNDP can contribute to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in October.

Mr. Lissner, who assumed his post at the beginning of July succeeding Othman Hashem, said the UNDP is committed to discussing development schemes and the role of the private sector.

We are currently discussing the prospect of holding an investment meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman in November following the MENA summit to discuss opportuni-

ties for investment in the peace era, said Mr. Lissner.

Mr. Lissner said that he was satisfied with the level of cooperation from the Jordanian government in the implementation of UNDP-financed projects.

He said that the UNDP is currently working with the government on the implementation of a programme designed to develop water, social and vocational training sectors in the Kingdom.

The UNDP is financing social projects carried out by the government in the rural regions and has allocated \$500,000 to help Jordan establish a water dam bank to help solve water problems, added Mr. Lissner.

The UNDP has also allocated

\$350,000 towards helping Jordan develop vocational training programmes in a bid to help the country deal with unemployment, according to Mr. Lissner.

He also said that the UNDP is at present financing a \$3 million project designed to protect the Azraq Oasis.

Mr. Lissner said that he met with a delegation from the United Nations Fund for Agricultural Development which is currently visiting Jordan and has discussed the provision of a multi-million dollar soft loan to help Jordan develop its livestock and agricultural industries over a three-year period commencing in 1996.

Next month, the UNDP will hold talks with the Ministry of Planning

on the financing of several projects contained within the 1997-2001 five-year development plan.

Jorgen Lissner

World News

Eleven die in violence as strike paralyses Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — At least 11 people were killed Sunday including a local leader of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party as strike-bound Karachi remained paralysed for a third day, police and officials said.

Masked men sprayed bullets from a car at an estate agency office in central Karachi, killing Aslam Shah, 55, a leading member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) branch and a hawker. Five others were injured in the attack, police said.

Groups of armed men torched at least six vehicles and set ablaze a bank while snipers shot dead three people in the eastern district of Liaqatabad, officials said.

"Two more people were shot dead in Orangi and Saeedabad areas in the western part of the city while another person was killed near the airport," they said.

"One person was killed in the industrial area of Korangi, focus of a clean-up operation by paramilitary troops since Tuesday, and five others were shot dead by a sniper elsewhere," police said.

Some 25 people including a policeman and a paramilitary soldier died during the six-

day-long Korangi operation, which officials say is aimed at arresting armed militants of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Police reported arresting five militant members of MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India after the subcontinent's partition in 1947.

They were picked up from a house of Korangi Sunday and some arms, a vehicle and a wireless set were also seized, police said.

Traffic was largely off the roads in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub, with shops and markets closed and most people staying indoors.

The MQM had called for a weekend mourning for a party leader who died in police custody.

It claims Aslam Subzwari was "tortured" to death by police, but authorities say he died of a heart attack following his arrest Thursday on charges of engaging in terrorism.

A strike was also observed in the second largest city of southern Pakistan's Sindh Province, Hyderabad, 160

kilometres northeast of here. Incidents of sporadic firing and a partial shutdown were reported in other Sindh cities of Nawabshah, Sukkur and Mirpurkhas.

The mourning followed a two-day weekly protest started by the party recently over the rape of a girl and slaying of a MQM activist late last month.

The government and MQM have agreed to hold unconditional talks in Islamabad Tuesday, in a bid to restart a process to restore peace in Karachi where ethnic and religious violence has claimed more than 900 lives this year.

MQM is demanding an end to what it calls discrimination against the Urdu-speaking community in Sindh which is ruled by the PPP.

The party denies government charges that it was behind the violence.

Founded in 1985, the Edhi Trust, an independent charity organisation which operates an ambulance service, said Mr. Subzwari's body was brought to its morgue by police after being released Friday from Jamia Hospital, where doctors confirmed he had died from "severe torture."

Meanwhile, MQM leader Altaf Hussain accused the government of torture and murder and appealed for U.N. intervention before the violence degenerates into civil war.

The call by Mr. Hussain came after the rebel leader died in police custody and torture marks were found in his body.

If the United Nations and the international community do not take action now to stop the genocide of our people in Karachi by government forces then the city will become like another Rwanda or Bosnia," Mr. Hussain told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from London, where he has lived in self-imposed exile since 1992.

Witnesses told the Associated Press that the body of Mr. Subzwari was badly mauled.

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KOREA: Rescue workers carry 21-year-old part-time department store employee, Choi Myung-Suk, after pulling him out from the rubble of the Sampoong department store 10 days after it collapsed. The rescuers, drilling into the rubble in heavy monsoon rain, were alerted to the man's presence by his shout, "give me water, give me water." (AFP photo)

Man rescued after 10 days in rubble of Seoul store

SEOUL (AFP) — A 21-year-old student was rescued unhurt here Sunday after surviving for more than 10 days in an air pocket under the rubble of a collapsed department store, rescuers and television reports said.

At one time, he said, "I lost all hope and gave up."

"I feel comfortable now," he said, adding: "I will become a filial (faithful) son from now."

"I thought five days might have passed at best," he said adding that he was surprised to hear that more than 10 days passed.

At the time the store collapsed on June 29, Mr. Choi, who worked in a third floor shoe store, said he had been on an escalator leaving the basement level supermarket carrying an ice cream.

"I felt the building shaking, I tried to flee, but it tumbled down too quickly, I lay down on my stomach."

He shouted out from the pitch darkness of his cramped niche for any other survivors and two women responded, trapped but unreachable in the rubble near him.

Both, however, later suffocated and died from inhaling the smoke of fires that broke out in the debris, he said.

Mr. Choi was found when an astounded rescuer working with an excavator was alerted to his presence by his shout: "Help me, help me, I'm here."

Mr. Choi's father, 52-year-old Choi Bong-Yul, who had been working as a volunteer at the site since the collapse, said he had kept praying for

his son.

In addition to the 158 dead, 262 are still listed as missing and 900 were injured in the collapse, which was blamed on shoddy construction work and illegal modifications.

The hundreds of angry relatives of the missing started marching en masse through the rain towards the presidential Blue House, many of them weeping.

They clashed with hastily mobilised riot police, screaming accusations that the city administration had been too hasty in giving up hope for survivors.

Television showed the crowd beating against the riot police's shields and kicking them before being driven back.

Meanwhile, prosecutors said that a former head of Ward Office in Socho where the doomed store was located, Lee Choong-Woo, had admitted to accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from Sampoong in return for overlooking illegal modifications to the building.

Mr. Lee, who was quizzed overnight, was to be formally arrested later Sunday for indictment.

The prosecutors said they would summon the current Ward Office head and another of his predecessors, also on charges of accepting kickbacks from the owners of the store, who are under arrest charged with manslaughter.

American hostage escapes from Kashmir rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP) —

An American tourist who was kidnapped by separatist rebels in Kashmir escaped from his captors in the middle of the night and fled to safety, he said Sunday.

"I took advantage of darkness and bad weather, and escaped at 2 a.m." Saturday, John Childs of Simsbury, Connecticut, said in an interview in Srinagar. "I was not released, I escaped."

Mr. Childs was kidnapped Tuesday evening along with another American and two Britons by militants of Al Faran, a little-known group fighting for Kashmir's independence from India. The rebels have demanded that India free jailed guerrillas.

Mr. Childs confirmed Sunday that the three other hostages were still being held by the militants, but he refused to say anything else about them or where they were.

He said he had not been injured by his captors, and had only received a few bruises on his feet while hiking through a mountainous area to safety after escaping.

He eventually reached the resort town of Pahalgam and Indian officials brought him back to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. There, he was staying in a heavily guarded government guest house and meeting with U.S. and Indian officials.

On Saturday, militants captured another Westerner, Dirk Hasert of Erfurt, Germany, who was travelling on horseback with a group of tourists, police said. It was unclear if Al Faran was involved, and whether Mr. Hasert was kidnapped before or after Mr. Childs' escape.

Before talking with a few reporters in Srinagar, Mr. Childs spoke by telephone with his mother, Helen Childs, in Salem, New York.

Afterward, in an interview with the Associated Press, Mrs. Childs said her son told her of his escape, but offered few details because he feared for the safety of the other captives.

Hundreds of Indian soldiers are combing through the Himalayan mountain region in northern India for the Hasert and the other three Western hostages.

Also captured were an American woman, two British women, a Canadian man and two Kashmiri guides, but the rebels freed them Wednesday with a note demanding the release of 21 jailed rebels.

Since rebels broke the truce, they have used surface-to-air missiles for the first time, downed two warplanes, sunk two military gunboats and overrun several small military bases.

Police said they were worried about 35 other foreigners, mostly trekkers, in the area. It was not immediately clear whether they would be asked to leave.

Later told journalists he had to squat in the small air pocket, licking rain water seeping through the rubble, and chewing on a paper carton to stay alive.

At one time, he said, "I lost all hope and gave up."

"I feel comfortable now," he said, adding: "I will become a filial (faithful) son from now."

"I thought five days might have passed at best," he said adding that he was surprised to hear that more than 10 days passed.

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Mr. Choi's father, 52-year-old Choi Bong-Yul, who had been working as a volunteer at the site since the collapse, said he had kept praying for

Nigerian rulers to review coup trial

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military rulers will convene a meeting this week to consider a coup trial which has been widely condemned abroad, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Thursday newspaper said the governing Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) would meet to discuss the trial of more than two dozen suspected coup plotters, including former ruler general Olusegun Obasanjo.

The independent paper quoted unnamed sources as saying the PRC meeting would be preceded by a broader meeting of top military officers.

There has been no official confirmation of the meeting. It also is unclear whether the

coup plot tribunal, which began sitting in secret June 5, has finished its work and passed sentences, which will be subject to confirmation of the PRC.

The West African country's military authorities have been silent about the trial which has become a topic of concern for many foreign governments and human rights bodies who have sought fair and open trials for those accused of plotting to topple the government.

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Chiluba spoke to the Sunday Mail about the trial, which has been widely condemned abroad, a newspaper reported Sunday.

He also promised to beef up police presence in Indian areas to fight the rising growth in crime.

Mr. Chiluba was addressing 10,000 people at the launch of a world Hindu conference in this town, which has South Africa's biggest coloured population.

His comment came a few months before municipal elections, scheduled for Nov. 1.

During South Africa's first non-racial elections in April 1994, the ANC lost heavily to the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party in the province. The Indian community voted overwhelmingly for the National Party of F.W. de Klerk.

Chemist shows how to get blood from stone

LONDON (R) — An Italian chemist thinks he knows what makes "miraculous" statues of the Virgin Mary appear to weep blood. Dr. Luigi Garlaschelli said three ingredients were needed for weeping statues that have often attracted the Roman Catholic faithful — blood, a glazed ceramic or plaster statue and something sharp like a nail. The research chemist said the blood can be poured into the hollow body of a porous statue which then soaks it up. Scratch off a tiny part of the glazing and the blood oozes out, he said. "When I put this to the test, this proved very satisfactory, baffling all onlookers," Dr. Garlaschelli wrote in the latest issue of Chemistry in Britain. Kieran Conroy, of the Catholic Media Office, welcomed his findings, telling the Sunday Telegraph, "If God wanted to say something to us, there are more direct ways of doing it. The more research there is, the better."

Elephants at sea alarm Islanders

NAIROBI (AFP) — Elephants are getting bad press again in Kenya, where they already have an unenviable reputation for being far deadlier than lions or crocodiles. The latest clash between humans and elephants occurred when they plunged into the Indian Ocean and headed for islands two kilometres (1.2 miles) offshore, the Standard reported here Friday, under the headline "Swimming elephants invade."

The hundreds of angry relatives of the missing started marching en masse through the rain towards the presidential Blue House, many of them weeping.

They clashed with hastily mobilised riot police, screaming accusations that the city administration had been too hasty in giving up hope for survivors.

Television showed the crowd beating against the riot police's shields and kicking them before being driven back.

Meanwhile, prosecutors said that a former head of Ward Office in Socho where the doomed store was located, Lee Choong-Woo, had admitted to accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from Sampoong in return for overlooking illegal modifications to the building.

Mr. Lee, who was quizzed overnight, was to be formally arrested later Sunday for indictment.

The prosecutors said they would summon the current Ward Office head and another of his predecessors, also on charges of accepting kickbacks from the owners of the store, who are under arrest charged with manslaughter.

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Sri Lanka launches big offensive against rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) —

Sri Lanka Sunday launched its first major military offensive against Tamil rebels since a ceasefire ended in April, killing at least 10 civilians and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes, the military said.

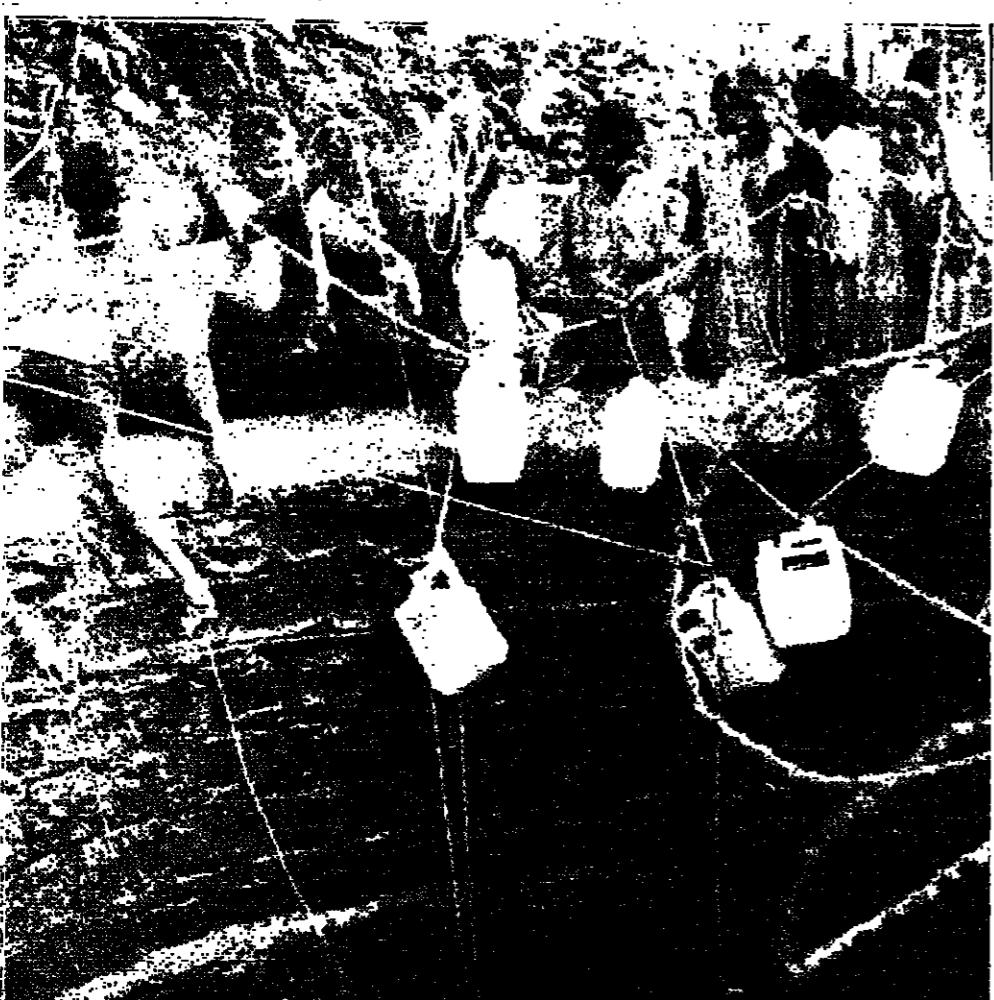
"More than 10,000 troops backed by air cover broke out from the northern Palai army base" in northern Sri Lanka, said Brig. Sarah Munasinghe, a government spokesman.

The operation began with navy ships, warplanes and long-range field guns at two military bases opening fire on Tamil rebel positions in the north and east for two large fronts, he said.

At the same time, forces at Elephant Pass, the only other military base in Jaffna, shelled rebel positions in the area.

At least 85 civilians had been admitted to hospitals in the rebel-held Jaffna town and 10 of them died, said a military official, speaking on condition of anonymity. More than 75,000 civilians fled the war zone, he said.

At least two soldiers were killed and 29 wounded,



Residents of a north Bombay suburb try to face major water shortage due to delayed monsoon rains (AFP photo)

U.S. seeks access to activist detained in China

BEIJING (AP) — China's government has sent mixed signals about how it will treat a Chinese-born U.S. citizen and human rights activist accused of spying, fellow activists said Sunday.

Harry Wu was formally charged Saturday with stealing state secrets and passing them to overseas organisations.

The charges, relayed in a brief dispatch by the state-run Xinhua news agency, were the first official word of Mr. Wu's fate in more than 10 days. He was taken into custody June 19 entering China's northwestern Xinjiang province from Kazakhstan.

U.S. embassy officials, denied access to Mr. Wu throughout his detention, hoped to meet with him as early as Monday, a State Department statement said.

After being assured a meeting at some point would be allowed, Arturo Macias, the U.S. consul general, planned Sunday to travel to Wuhan, the central Chinese city where Mr. Wu was being held.

The embassy, however, refused to confirm whether Mr. Macias or any representative was going to Wuhan.

Mr. Wu spent 19 years in China's prison labour camps. He last lived in Wuhan, one of the reasons he may have been charged there, before emigrating to the United States in 1985 and becoming one of the most dogged documentarians of China's Gulag. He repeatedly returned to China. A year ago, he investigated the execution of prisoners and the reported taking of their organs for transplants.

The national archives documenting organ transplants are in Wuhan, said Robin Munro, a researcher with the New York-based Human Rights Watch-Asia.

Although the promise of a meeting is hopeful, the charges Mr. Wu faces are among China's most serious. Espionage is classified as a "counterrevolutionary" crime and punishable by death. Its definition was broadened in 1993 law and encompasses the obtaining of state secrets and then passing them to foreign organisations.

"A mixed stance has been taken by the Chinese authorities," said Mr. Munro. "In their heart of hearts they want to treat him as a Chinese, but higher levels probably recognise he is a foreign national."

A key to discerning China's intents is how it handles the consular meeting with Mr. Wu, said Jeffrey Fiedler, a director of Mr. Wu's California-based Laogai Research Foundation.

Mr. Wu has been an effective lobbyist in Washington and many members of Congress count him as a friend. Mr. Fiedler expects that Capitol Hill will "explode" this week.

"The Chinese have decided they want to make this a high-profile case," Mr. Fiedler said. "What I don't understand is, is it that they hate Harry Wu or that they want to humiliate the Clinton administration?"

French navy closes on Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior II vessel

ON BOARD RAINBOW WARRIOR II (AFP)

Four French navy vessels followed Rainbow Warrior II and another Greenpeace vessel Sunday as they closed in to the military exclusion zone around France's nuclear test site in the Pacific.

Three of the vessels were around the Greenpeace flagship and a fourth was shadowing a 12-metre-yacht, the Vega, that joined Rainbow Warrior II en route for Mururoa Atoll on Saturday, a spokeswoman for the group said on-board.

The two environment protest vessels were headed very slowly toward the 12-nautical-mile (20-kilometre) exclusion zone that France has declared around Mururoa.

Greenpeace has also said it does not seek a confrontation with the French navy, but tension was mounting on the flagship after two other military vessels appeared on the Rainbow Warrior radar screen.

Activists loaded food and fuel on the Zodiacs in preparation for any operation. Anti-nuclear banners were also put on the side of Rainbow Warrior II.

Admiral Philippe Euverte, military commander on

Mururoa, said his anti-Greenpeace force was completed with the arrival of the patrol vessel La Raillouse, which is carrying the 150 commandos. A smaller patrol vessel, the Revi, was also in place.

He said the commandos would intercept any Greenpeace inflatable Zodiac boats that tried to get close to the atoll, where a new series of eight nuclear tests are due to start in September.

Commandos were used to stop Greenpeace activists on a similar mission in 1992. But Adm. Euverte said Friday there was "absolutely no need to use weapons" against Greenpeace, which had shown its "purely peaceful intentions."

Greenpeace has also said it does not seek a confrontation with the French navy, but tension was mounting on the flagship after two other military vessels appeared on the Rainbow Warrior radar screen.

Activists loaded food and fuel on the Zodiacs in preparation for any operation. Anti-nuclear banners were also put on the side of Rainbow Warrior II.

Khmer Rouge shells rattle buildings in Battambang

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP)

Explosions from incoming Khmer Rouge shells shook buildings early Sunday morning in the centre of this town, Cambodia's second largest, as the government sent in large numbers of troops to help battle the guerrillas.

An estimated 1,700 reinforcements have arrived in northwest Battambang province from several other provinces over the past several days to take part in what is expected to be a concerted push by the military to retake the government base at Treng about 42 kilometres southwest of Battambang town.

Included among the reinforcements were at least six teenage boys aged 13 to 17 who are part of the Battambang provincial militia, a boy who said he was 17 told AFP, adding that he hoped to do his part to rout the rebels.

The Khmer Rouge took Treng, the last government position on National Route 10 before the rebel's stronghold of Pailin near the Thai border, last Tuesday after fierce fighting.

Though fighting and shelling have subsided since Thursday as both sides dig in and prepare for the other's next move, the Khmer Rouge have begun to shell areas quite close to Battambang town from the outlying districts of Banan.

At least 10 shells hit the outskirts of Battambang early Friday and Saturday night, shaking buildings in the town's centre, though no injuries were reported.

Interested candidates should apply by letter, enclosing a curriculum vitae together with the names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of two professional referees. Application packages should be sent to the Director General, New English School, P.O. Box 154, Khalda, Amman, by Wed. 12, July at the latest. Candidates selected to come to interview will be notified as soon as possible after this date.

Applications are invited from experienced, qualified teachers for the following subject areas for the start of the new academic year (August 1995).

- a. Economics to IGCSE and "A" level
- b. Mathematics to IGCSE level
- c. History to IGCSE and "A" level

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The Chinese have decided they want to make this a high-profile case," Mr. Fiedler said. "What I don't understand is, is it that they hate Harry Wu or that they want to humiliate the Clinton administration?"

Dispute over sovereignty blocks progress at Russian-Chechen talks

GROZNY (AFP) — Chechen and Russian negotiators remained far apart on the issue of Chechenya's status Sunday as they attempted to build on a fragile agreement to hold elections in the breakaway Caucasus republic.

Chechen chief negotiator Usman Imayev said the negotiators would discuss "four questions — three disputed Russian proposals and one Chechen proposal on our suggestion on the status of Chechenya."

The head of the Russian delegation, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, meanwhile told reporters that "we will decide the question as provided for in the Russian constitution."

The Chechen side does not recognise that it is subject to the Russian constitution.

Earlier the negotiators, meeting at the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), reached broad agreements on a ceasefire and conditions for internationally-monitored general elections.

In what Mr. Imayev called a "goodwill gesture" the Chechens handed over three Russian prisoners of war at the start of the session.

The three, who were captured during the Russian storming of Grozny at the beginning of January, looked healthy but frightened.

Asked in front of Chechen and Russian soldiers whether they had been well treated, one of the prisoners said: "We lived where the fighters lived. We were under (Russian) bombardments, but it was okay."

Two days ago, the Russians gave back four Chechens.

One of the Russian negotiators, Arkady Volsky, said the two sides would examine political issues, including Chechenya's status, and economic issues.

He insisted that the independence issue must be settled after elections that "reflected people's wishes in the republic."

The Russian delegation, he added, could propose the addition in a final agreement

of a clause referring to the "future status of the republic."

But asked the position of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's government, which is hiding in the Caucasus mountains after seven months of war against Russian forces, Mr. Imayev said: "The status of Chechenya was decided in 1991." That is the date that Dudayev declared independence.

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of a clause referring to the "future status of the republic."

She is the only eyewitness to the murders, although neighbours said they saw men in masks get out of a Russian-marked armoured vehicle and go into the house, just outside Grozny.

"She's the only real witness and she can't talk. She's on an artificial respirator," said Luisa Chapanova, the woman's niece.

Security was stepped up at the talks Sunday, with streets leading to the OSCE office closed off by Russian armoured cars.

A crowd of about 100 Chechen women, who hold daily pro-independence demonstrations outside the building, were barred entry to the area.

Instead, they gathered in the shadow of Russian fighting vehicles and sang the Zikr, a Muslim ritual. Several people, including two children and an infant, were shot dead. A seventh, a woman in her 30s, was lying unconscious in hospital under heavy guard, with a bullet wound in her head.

Despite the ceasefire accord, Russian military officials said Chechen separatists attacked Russian military posts near three villages in southern Chechenya.

In Moscow, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai said he expected the government's choice of the military option in Chechenya in December would be vindicated by the constitutional court, which Monday begins examining the legality of the decision.

"I am sure that these actions by the president and government were justified and necessary," Mr. Shakhrai told reporters.

The Chechen separatists will not present their case to the court.

Mr. Shakhrai acknowledged "guilt" over the facts that protracted and ultimately unsuccessful talks with the Chechen side aimed at finding a political solution had made the military intervention all the more difficult.

Unrest cost £8 million

Meanwhile, police said damage caused in last week's disturbances in Northern Ireland following the early release of a British soldier convicted of murder has been estimated at eight million pounds (£12 million).

The release of Private Lee Clegg, sentenced to life for the shooting of a joyrider in 1990, sparked a week of demonstrations throughout Northern Ireland as protesters demanded equal conditions for paramilitaries imprisoned on murder charges.

Several vehicles were set alight in continuing unrest overnight Saturday, police said.

Meanwhile a councillor for the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, Hugh Lewis, was taken to hospital Saturday after being beaten by eight men.

Mr. Lewis, well-known for his outspoken criticism of sectarian violence, accused the Irish Republican Army of attacking him.

"I will continue to condemn violence from wherever it comes," he said.

Northern Irish police block marchers

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland, (Agencies) — Riot police blocked a protest demonstration by Catholic nationalists in Portadown on Sunday to prevent any confrontation with Northern Ireland's ultra-British Protestant "Orange Order."

Sectarian tension surrounding annual parades that commemorate ancient victories over Irish Catholics is fueling anxiety over the British province's shaky 10-month peace effort.

Catholics in the country Armagh Town of Portadown were angry at that they said was a provocative plan by 500 Orangemen to parade later in the day behind marching bands with banners shouting "Orange Order."

Catholics say province-wide Orange Order demonstrations, culminating in massive parades next Wednesday, are displays of "sectarian triumphalism."

Police said they had not yet decided whether to permit the Orange Order march, scheduled to start about three hours later, to pass by Catholic housing estates at Garvagh.

Brendan Mac Cionnaith told police that the 100 Catholics protesters wanted to march to the local Orange Order headquarters to hand in a letter urging the Orangemen to reroute the march away from the Nationalist Area.

Police Superintendent James Blair told him: "If I allow this march to go any further I anticipate serious public disorder. I direct that all the people who are here disperse immediately."

Orange leaders reject the charges and say they are committed to religious freedom for all and that the objectors refuse to acknowledge Protestants' right to their British identity.

Police Superintendent James Blair told him: "If I allow this march to go any further I anticipate serious public disorder. I direct that all the people who are here disperse immediately."

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Kuwait MPs seek laws on privatisation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti parliamentarians, voicing fears a privatisation plan could help create monopolies, said on Saturday they were in favour of laws to govern the sale of the emirate's stake in local firms and public services.

"There is no fear from privatisation if there was a law that prevents monopoly," deputy Jassem Al Sager told parliament in a debate on privatisation and general financial issues.

Deputies expressed concern that the sale, in the absence of clear and standar-

dised plans, could serve a small group of investors who might create monopolies.

Since 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti government has had a programme to sell its stake in 60 local firms and some basic services like telecommunications, power and water.

Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Managing Director Ali Al Bader was quoted as saying the state had sold shares in seven public firms listed on the Kuwait

Stock Exchange worth about \$1 billion since mid-1994 in a fledgling privatisation plan.

Mr. Bader said KIA, the government investment arm, still holds shares with an estimated market value of \$50 million dinars (\$1.8 billion) as well as smaller holdings.

Parliament recommended that the government should table bills that govern all privatisation operations, set measures to protect consumers and prevent monopolies, allowing the state to control prices for services.

Parliament's recommenda-

tions are not binding for the government.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan agreed in parliament that there should be regulations to govern the private sectors' handling of firms and services which once belonged to the state, but opposed ideas to freeze the privatisation process until a clear plan is reached.

"There might be some negative aspects that come along with the privatisation operation but that should not bring the programme to a halt," he said.

Parliament also recommended that the government should revise a 1955 tax law to, for the first time, require all public and private sector concerns to pay a corporate tax.

Currently only foreign concerns operating in Kuwait pay a slab-tax ranging between five and 55 per cent on their profits.

The recommendation said the tax law should "suit the financial and economic circumstances in Kuwait."

Iran still aims to unify exchange rate system

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's central bank still aims to unify the country's foreign exchange rate system, bank Governor Mohsen Noorbakhsh said in comments carried by the official Iranian News Agency IRNA.

The government was forced in May to devalue the rial and effectively abolish the free foreign exchange market, widely seen as a key element in achieving a single exchange rate, after the rial lost almost half its value against the dollar in four months.

Noorbakhsh stressed... that the government trying to adopt a consistent policy will unify a singular ex-

change rate system in the country," IRNA reported late on Saturday.

"In order to do so the monetary system as well as the money circulation policy must be consistent and homogeneous," the governor was reported to have said.

IRNA did not say if the governor set any date for restoring the free market or a target date for a single exchange rate.

Unifying Iran's multi-layered exchange rate system came weeks after U.S. President Bill Clinton announced a trade and investment embargo against Iran, which led Iranians local people to dump rials for dollars because of fears that the U.S. sanctions would fan inflation.

But a near-collapse this year in the value of the rial

against the dollar has frustrated attempts to attain a single and fully convertible rate for the Iranian rial.

To control the value of the currency the government overnight closed semi-official foreign exchange offices and forced Iranian exporters to obtain and repatriate all of their foreign currency earnings through the central bank.

These measures came weeks after U.S. President Bill Clinton announced a trade and investment embargo against Iran, which led Iranians local people to dump rials for dollars because of fears that the U.S. sanctions would fan inflation.

IRNA quoted the bank governor as saying new rules covering exporters' access to foreign currency had been successful.

"Noorbakhsh went on to say that the framework adopted for export policy has worked well and considered it favourable for the exporters since it created a secure environment for foreign transactions," IRNA reported.

He said the government would need \$3.6 billion to secure "essentials items in the current year" and that \$1.8 billion of hard currency had been allocated for the industrial sector to draw on by using letters of credit.

EU ministers to tackle single currency obstacles

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Two of the major obstacles to Europe creating a single currency by the end of the century are to be tackled when European Union (EU) finance ministers meet here today (Monday).

For the first time, the ministers are to discuss the problems that will result from a hard core of countries moving to a single currency while others stay outside.

The issue was pushed to the top of finance ministers' agenda by last month's Cannes summit, where EU leaders agreed the potential implications for the single market had to be addressed.

Monday's council is also due to take stock of the progress member states have made in harmonising their economic performances in preparation for the switch to a single currency, particularly

in terms of meeting targets on national debt and budget deficits laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

The clear message that will emerge is that there is still a lot of work to be done, some of it involving painful cost cutting, even for leading single currency contenders such as Belgium and France.

In total, twelve of the 15 EU member states will be sent away with a stern "must do better" warning from the European commission and a set of recommendations designed to bring them up to the standards of the current star pupils: Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg.

The recommendations will hold few surprises however: they are largely in line with the proposals put forward by national governments which are either legally bound by

the Maastricht targets, or, as in the case of Britain and Denmark, regard the reduction of deficits as a desirable policy goal in itself.

France has been instrumental in getting the EU to face up to the in-out issues involved in creating a single currency.

While France is seen as a certain member of the first group of states moving to lock exchange rates, two of its major trading partners, Britain and Italy, are unlikely to be in.

Italy's budget deficit is forecast at 8.1 per cent of GDP in 1996, giving it no chance of meeting the three per cent Maastricht guideline. Britain should meet the targets but is politically uncertain about giving up the pound.

What gives France nightmares is the prospect of these two states, as well as Spain, being free to use devaluation as an instrument of economic policy and undercut French producers who would be irreversibly locked in to a hard Eurocurrency based on the German mark.

The most frequently touted solution is an exchange rate grid between the single and other EU currencies along the lines of the European monetary system (EMS) currently in place.

The EMS however has been unable to prevent devaluations for the British pound, Spanish peseta and Italian lira over the last few years. It would also be very difficult to persuade Britain to return to a system which was blamed for exacerbating the recession of the early 1990's by keeping interest rates artificially high.

Another solution would be to delay a switch to a single currency until all four big European economies — Britain, France, Germany and Italy — were ready to move together.

That would mean ditching the Maastricht commitment that exchange rates must be locked by Jan. 1, 1999, at the latest and would be politically



The industrial ministers of the European Union's member countries pose for the traditional "family photo" prior to the start of their meeting in Bilbao, their first since Spain took over the EU presidency July 1 for the next six months (AFP photo)

Summer slowdown hits Arab markets

DUBAI (R) — The start of the quiet summer season depressed trade on many Arab stock markets last week, where most share prices kept well within recent ranges.

Kuwait's exchange provided the only excitement on an otherwise dull landscape, extending recently sharp gains on persistently healthy demand for key banking stocks.

In active dealings the overall share index jumped four per cent or 44 points, as it did the previous week, to 1,109 points. Volumes leapt 33 per

cent to 264 million shares. Dealers said news the central bank would raise the interest rate on government bonds, which account for 35 per cent of bank assets and are crucial to their profitability, boosted demand.

The market also found support from talk that government had approved a bill easing terms for the repayment of \$20 billion in bad debt. This was confirmed by cabinet after the close.

National Bank was up 75 fils in the week to 560. Gulf Bank rose 30 to 300 and Commercial Bank jumped

eight fils to 1,862.22.

Share prices on Qatar's unofficial market were mixed. Dealers said the market was encouraged, but trade unaffected, by Monday's emir's decision setting up an official exchange.

Banking shares did well, with Qatar national bank up two riyals at 512. Doha bank closed up at 214 fils from 188 the week before.

In slow summer dealings in Egypt, the index extended its decline to hit a fresh nine-month low of 218.89 points.

In Bahrain, demand for banking shares lifted the index 9.34 points to 1,296. Activity picked up with 5.3 million shares changing

hands from 3.2 million the previous week.

United Arab Emirates shares ended a week of low-volume trade mostly unchanged as the recent spate of high bids which buoyed select shares to record highs petered out.

A five dirham jump in market leader Etisalat to 815 lifted the National Bank of Abu Dhabi index 13.31

points to 1,862.22.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The triple Moon in Capricorn conjunction to the Sun, Mercury and Neptune adds power to this New Moon which starts our New Year off with a positive bang in more ways than are immediately apparent.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can improve relations with others very easily. Put yourself in their shoes in order to understand their position better.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Quiet activity is your best mode of procedure now, so get busy early and gain your aims easily. Show more affection for your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have every chance to contact good friends and gain their cooperation for your ambitions. A good day to get shopping done.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you want to accomplish something in the outside world, wear a smile. Try to please your mate more.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make new contacts and cultivate them for more rapport in the future. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets and wants to make it his or hers.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You get fine ideas as to how to have more rapport with your mate. Your intuition tells you how to deal with one in business.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) See those clever friends who are inclined to push you into doing things which are advantageous to you. Avoid a tricky individual.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you use a different approach at whatever tasks you get into, you can soon finish them. Take it easy tonight with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to be with those you are most fond of and who are congenial and fun to be with. Get your appearance at its best.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day for having a delightful time at home with kin and others. Invite friends and close associates who are charming into your home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get in touch with persons whom you like but have not seen in some time. Then get out and visit people who are very close to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make your home more charming by adding art objects, etc. Handle small repairs around your home and you can save yourself a lot of money.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword

By Samuel K. Fleischer

ACROSS

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Business
Daily
DearA review
of economic news
from the Arabic pressJordan
develops
'Beetle'
cars

The Armed Forces Royal Maintenance Corps managed to develop the two-door German Volkswagen car, by adding two more doors to it after increasing its length by 30 centimetres, thus making it convenient for small-size families.

The developed "Beetle car," tested by all the concerned authorities, including the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Traffic Department, has proved to be very efficient and practical. Brigadier Yazan Ajlouni, the commander of the force's Amman Central Workshops, said the idea of developing the car was the brainchild of retired Lieutenant-Colonel Musa Mahmoud who exerted strenuous efforts along with his colleagues in the force to accomplish this achievement. He said the car was presented to His Majesty King Hussein as a gift on his birthday Nov. 14, 1994. The King then conferred Royal medals upon those involved in the project. Brig. Ajlouni said the force has also succeeded in rebuilding 140 two-door out-of-service Volkswagen cars which saved the force about JD 250,000. He said the force was currently holding contacts with the Volkswagen manufacturing company in Germany to register the new invention with them. He added that the force's workshops intend to establish spare parts factories in Jordan to save the Kingdom badly-needed hard currency spent on buying them from abroad (Al Ra'i).

UAE to set up more desalination plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to set up three more desalination plants to cater for growing domestic consumption, the Al Khaleej newspaper reported on Sunday.

The government has approved 240 million dirhams (\$65.4 million) for the projects in the northern emirates of Ajman, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah, said Al Shamsi, under-secretary at the ministry of water and electricity, told the paper.

"Bids have been invited for consultants to prepare studies on the projects and local needs," Mr. Shamsi said.

Like other desert Gulf oil

producers, the UAE relies

heavily on desalinated sea

water, which provides nearly

70 per cent of its drinking

water.

Saudi, World Bank sign memorandum

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia and the World Bank have signed a memorandum to encourage foreign investors to forge joint venture deals with the Saudi private sector, the Saudi Press Agency SPA reported without elaboration.

The memorandum was signed on Saturday by World Bank President James Wolfensohn and Saudi Finance Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al Abal-Khai in Jeddah.

The agency said the memorandum aimed at "encouraging foreign investments to enter into joint ventures in the Kingdom with the private sector through the International Investment Guarantee Agency, which is an affiliate of the World Bank."

SPA said Mr. Wolfensohn and Mr. Al Abal-Khai also discussed World Bank finance for projects in developing countries, and a technical cooperation agreement under which Saudi government institutions could approach the World Bank to provide ex-

Gas project steers Qatar to dominance

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Qatar, a minor OPEC member, is set to become a dominant force in the global energy market as it presses ahead with the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, experts say.

Sitting on the third biggest natural gas reserves in the world, the tiny Gulf oil producer expects to become the top LNG supplier when the giant North Field project is commissioned in a few years.

Japan, South Korea and several other Asian countries will be heavily reliant on its LNG under long-term supply deals, as the continent is set to become one of the biggest gas consumers in the world after the year 2000.

Qatar's new ruler, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless palace coup last week, is expected to push ahead with the two-phase venture and spur fresh investment in the world's largest gas reservoir.

"From the way he has run Qatar in the past two years, one can see the economy is one of Sheikh Hamad's priorities," an oil-industry official in Doha said.

"He will probably open

the door for more investment in gas as this will expand the country's industrial base and diversify its economy."

The North Field project, part of which has been launched, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG, according to the government, exceeding the 13.8 million tonnes produced by the world's current top LNG exporter, Indonesia.

Investments in the scheme are expected to total more than \$10 billion, provided by the Qatari government and several foreign partners, including U.S.-based Mobil and Total of France.

The North Field venture will tap the emirate's huge natural gas reserves, officially estimated at 7.079 trillion cubic metres (235.9 trillion cubic feet). They are third to reserves in Russia and Iran.

"There is no doubt the project will transform Qatar from a negligible oil producer into a dominant force in the world's energy market, given the growing significance of gas as a cleaner source of energy," an oil executive said.

Qatar is the second-smallest oil producer in the

12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with an output quota of 378,000 barrels per day (bpd). Gabon, which has threatened to pull out, has a quota of 287,000 bpd.

Experts said Qatar's massive gas reserves would also enable it to expand its petrochemical industry and secure further funds to finance development.

They noted that at the production rate expected from the North Field venture, its gas reserves could last more than 360 years. This is in contrast with its small crude reserves, estimated at around four billion barrels.

The amount of income the North Field project will fetch Qatar is unclear, but experts said this depended on the supply contracts with buyers.

However, they added the earnings would be sizeable given the large production and the growing consumption of gas in Asia and other areas.

Independent estimates showed world gas demand is growing faster than that of oil as several countries are switching to gas due to increasing environmental con-

cerns.

A breakdown showed that while oil demand is projected to increase by around 62 per cent to 91 million bpd in the year 2020 from 56 million bpd in 1990, gas consumption is forecast to more than double to 71 million equivalent bpd from 34 million equivalent bpd.

Gas demand could reach around 73 million equivalent bpd with higher economic growth.

Qatar also plants to supply its oil-rich Gulf neighbours with natural gas through an ambitious pipeline project, and has announced its willingness to sell gas to Israel.

"Qatar, as an oil country like its neighbours, will be much different," Ihsan Abu Huleika, an expert at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, wrote Saturday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

"It will see a second economic boom as its gas is important not only for its oilers but for Japan, South Korea, India and many others. Gas earnings will also enable it to launch fresh steps to diversify its economy."

Arabs need \$20 billion for refining expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to invest nearly \$20 billion to upgrade their petroleum products and boost refining production capacity to meet growing world demand, an official report said on Saturday.

Current Arab refining output capacity is estimated at around 285 million tonnes per year (5.7 million barrels per day) and the level will rise to around 300 million tonnes (six million b/d) in the year 2000, said the report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

"Upgrading and expansion of Arab refineries require investment of around 20 billion until the year 2010 in circumstances where the profit margin is receding," the Kuwait-based group said in its July bulletin, obtained here.

"Arab nations should boost coordination in the refining industry to maintain the advanced position of their products in the market," OAPEC said.

OAPEC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, UAE, Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Libya. It controls more than 60 per cent of the world's oil and 20 per cent of the global gas reserves.

Iran parliament to probe central bank activities

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament is to launch a probe into the central bank's activities over the past five years, in the first such inquiry since the 1979 Islamic revolution, assembly sources said Sunday.

The investigation will date back to the tenure of former central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli, who was replaced in September by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, they said.

The bank has been widely blamed for the country's economic crisis, notably for the sharp rise in Iran's foreign debt — estimated at around

\$35 billion. The authorities were forced in May to freeze the dollar rate in a bid to stabilise the national currency and curb soaring inflation.

The decision came amid the rising public distrust of financial authorities over a \$200 million embezzlement at a state bank in Iran.

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ARAB BANK PLC	450	98060	218.000	218.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	17750	82458	4.630	4.670
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1500	2152	1.370	1.340
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1041	2563	2.570	2.580
THE BANK OF JORDAN	6880	5022	8.000	8.000
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	2143	6061	2.850	2.820
JORDAN GULF BANK	800	1026	1.280	1.300
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7500	29375	3.950	3.900
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2251	8426	3.740	3.750
BUSINESS BANK	650	2503	3.900	3.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2019	8478	4.200	4.200
HEBEL KHALID SAVING/INVESTMENT	850	3237	3.850	3.810
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9180	1028	1.340	1.350
ARAB BANK CORPORATION/JORDAN	500	650	5.310	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	75016	117530	1.580	1.590
BANKS SECTOR	128600	430720	INDEX NUMBER: 180.68	CHANGE : +0.02
JORDANIAN INSURANCE	600	1590	2.650	2.650
BALI LAND INSURANCE	500	1485	2.830	2.970
INSURANCE SECTOR	1100	3075	INDEX NUMBER: 125.63	CHANGE : 0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16072	27198	1.700	1.690
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	6250	17518	2.800	2.830
NATIONAL PORTOFOLIO SECURITIES	1462	3350	2.320	2.390
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1400	1743	1.250	1.230
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3050	10101	3.320	3.310
SERVICES SECTOR	28234	59909	INDEX NUMBER: 132.32	CHANGE : -0.14%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	20	551	26.250	27.560
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THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	450	1174	2.630	2.610
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	364	1383	3.800	3.800
ARAB SPINNING & WEAVING	450	1431	3.200	3.180
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4680	953	2.000	2.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	11800	19141	7.760	7.780
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	300	1740	5.800	5.800
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ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3000	4170	1.390	1.390
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1674	1969	1.190	1.180
UNIVERSAL POLYCHLORINE CHEMICALS	2183	4895	2.230	2.230
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3920	12560	3.210	3.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6300	13574	2.160	2.160
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3750	7177	1.930	1.910
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	144083	483441	INDEX NUMBER: 131.15	CHANGE : -0.10%
GRAND TOTAL	302017	977145	INDEX NUMBER: 186.21	CHANGE : -0.03%
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VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 323720				

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Uzebek Djamilov Abdunjaparov (left) sprints his way down a stage in the Tour de France (AFP photo)

Indurain makes major move

LIEGE, Belgium (R) — Mighty Miguel Indurain, who struck a major blow to his main Tour de France rivals with a powerful display in Saturday's seventh stage, said he was looking forward to the individual time trial which could see him stamp his authority on the world's greatest cycle race.

"It's a course tailored to my measurements and there will be huge gaps," warned Spaniard Indurain ahead of the 54-km race against the clock from Huy to Seraing in Belgium.

Indurain has few rivals in an exercise he has used in the last four years to pave the way for as many tour victories and the kind of form he showed on Saturday indicated he would be hard to beat.

Second place in the stage behind new leader Johan Bruyneel of Belgium allowed Indurain to move eight places overall up to second and to gain 50 seconds or more on his most dangerous opponents.

Indurain broke away with Bruyneel after the last climb of the day's bumpy, 203-km ride from Charleroi and the two men left the Peloton

helpless as they rushed to Liege, where Bruyneel produced his effort in the last metres of the final straight to treat the home crowd with a stage win.

"It was like being behind a motorcycle for 20 kilometres," said an impressed Bruyneel, who took over the coveted yellow jersey from Dane Bjarne Riis. "I couldn't move in front but anyway, if I had, it would have slowed us down."

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, widely regarded as the man most capable of depriving Indurain of a fifth consecutive triumph in Paris, said he had been surprised by the Spaniard's attack.

"In the morning, I had seen him at the back of the Peloton and I thought he wasn't too well so I certainly didn't expect him to do something like that," said the world hour record holder. "I would've done exactly the same if I'd had his legs but I didn't."

Indurain not only silenced those who blame him for his lack of panache but he once again proved he was a fine tactician by attacking as soon as his rivals, too busy thinking about intermediate

sprints, forgot to keep an eye on him.

"The first half of the stage, which was the easiest, was eventful because all the teams were fighting for intermediate sprints and lost a lot of energy that way," he said.

"Then, in the second part, we (the Banesto Team) were able to control the race. After attacking, I looked behind me and saw there was nobody there. So I thought it was a perfect opportunity to hurt the morale of my rivals."

Many thought Indurain would stay comfortably within the pack until the time trial but by deciding to shine a day earlier, the Spaniard managed to score precious points even before demonstrating

his prowess against the clock. He will set off from Huy with an advantage of 11 seconds on Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, 33 on Swiss Alex Zueille, 42 on Rominger and one minute, 34 seconds on Russian Yevgeny Berzin.

All these men have no other choice than to give

their all if there do not want to see Indurain's hunt for a fifth title become merely a formality. But according to Bruyneel, there will find it hard to contest Indurain's supremacy.

"I saw him closely and I can tell you that he is very, very strong," he said.

Points standings (green jersey)

	1. Laurent Jalabert (Fra)	155 Pts
2. Djamilov Abdunjaparov (Uzb)	151	
3. Mario Cipollini (Ita)	108	
4. Erik Zabel (Ger)	98	
5. Giovanni Lombardi (Ita)	94	
6. Jan Svorda (Svk)	80	
7. Frederic Moncassin (Fra)	74	
8. Bjarne Riis (Den)	71	
9. Miguel Indurain (Spa)	68	
10. Bruno Thibout (Fra)	68	

Brazil continues winning streak in volleyball

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Defending champion Brazil overpowered Spain 15-4, 15-5, 15-1 Sunday, moving within one victory of reaching the quarterfinals of the 8th men's junior world volleyball championship.

The Brazilians will enter the last eight if they beat South Korea Monday in Group C. They beat Puerto Rico 15-2, 15-2, 15-8 on Saturday.

In Group A, Finland and Poland both won their second match. Finland downed Malaysia 15-6, 15-4, 15-5 after beating China 15-13, 15-13, 15-9 Saturday. Poland beat China 15-10, 15-4, 15-7 Sunday after defeating Malaysia 15-10, 15-3, 15-0 Saturday.

Monday's Poland-Finland match will decide who will go to the quarterfinals.

In Group B, 1993 runners-up Italy was at 2-0 after beating Greece 10-15,

Also at 2-0 were Russia and the Netherlands. The Russians beat India 15-11, 11-15, 15-11, 15-9 Sunday after downing Algeria 15-8, 15-8, 15-3 Saturday. The Dutch beat Algeria 15-13, 15-2, 15-7 Sunday

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

2nd Special Olympian missing

NEW HAVEN (AP) — A second participant in the 1995 Special Olympics World has gone missing, and authorities said Saturday he may be seeking asylum in the United States. Juan Carlos Balbuena, 20, of the Dominican Republic, disappeared from the Yale University stadium early Friday and has not been seen since then, said David Phelps, a spokesman for Special Olympics International. "We have reason to believe that this is an immigration-related matter. He may be trying to enter the country illegally or seek asylum," Phelps said without elaborating. Phelps said the organizers of the games are concerned about the missing man, but they did not believe he is in grave danger. Balbuena, who is a basketball player, was staying with his colleagues at a college in a nearby suburb of New Haven. Meanwhile, divers had searched the waters near Madison for a member of the Nepal football team at the Special Olympics who is believed to have drowned in his first experience in deep waters. Ramesh Malhi, who never learned to swim, has been missing since Thursday. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for him Friday, presuming him dead.

Coach Edmondo Fabbri dies

CASTEL SAN PIETRO, Italy (AP) — Edmondo Fabbri, who coached Italy's national soccer team in one of its lowest moments, has died, family members said Saturday. He was 73. Fabbri died late Friday in a hospital near Bologna. The hospital gave no cause of death, but family members said that recently Fabbri was unable to walk without pain. Fabbri coached the national squad in the 1966 World Cup in England, when Italy was ousted in the first round by a 1-0 loss to North Korea. The defeat devastated soccer-mad Italians and Fabbri was soon dismissed. He coached in the Italian League until the mid-1970s then held management posts on several teams.

Fasang new mini-flyweight champ

PATHUM THANI, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's Fasang Por Pongsawang defeated World Boxing Federation (WBF) mini-flyweight champion Romie Magrano of the Philippines by a unanimous points decision in this northern suburb of Bangkok on Saturday.

Schumacher brands Hill a loser

BONN (AP) — Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher believes that British Damon Hill is suffering from a "loser's syndrome," according to a Sunday newspaper interview. Schumacher, who convincingly beat Hill in this month's French Grand Prix and leads him by 11 points in the championship, told Welt-am-Sonntag: "For me, he is suffering from some sort of loser's syndrome." The German furthered his claim by adding: "It's really fortunate that neither (Heinz Harald) Frentzen, nor (Mika) Häkkinen nor (Jean) Alesi are driving a Williams." "Otherwise, the 1995 season would be much more difficult for me." Williams Renault have won the last three world constructors titles, but Hill remains in Schumacher's shadow. As for his own future, Schumacher said: "For the moment, I'd like to stay with Benetton. I feel really good with them." But he added that his decision for 1996 would be based on the size of the contract. On a personal level, Schumacher said: "A major German newspaper had paid a large sum for the exclusive rights to his marriage ceremony in September. "If a newspaper makes money out of my marriage, there's no reason why I shouldn't get something too," said the world champion, adding that the money earned would be donated to UNICEF and other charitable agencies.

Recalde wins home rally

CORDOBA (R) — Jorge Recalde won a crushing victory on Saturday in his home round of the World Rally Championship, the Rally of Argentina, driving a Lancia. Easily South America's most successful rally driver, the 44-year-old led from start to finish, comfortably outpacing the similar car of Uruguayan Gustavo Treilles, who was hampered by a lack of power. "It's good for Argentina," a relaxed Recalde said with a smile. However, his second victory in his home rally will earn him no championship points, as this year's event counted only toward the two litre World Rally championship, which excludes four-wheel drive cars such as his Lancia. As a result, maximum points went to Czech driver Pavel Sibera, who took his 1500cc Skoda Felicia to a fine fourth place.

Seles ready for return

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) Looking tanned and relaxed, Monica Seles said Saturday she is ready to return to tournament tennis, regardless of her ranking.

Seles spent the day at the Special Olympics World Games, presenting medals, conducting clinics and generally having a good time. And that, she said, is what her return after more than two years from the game is all about.

It took time, Seles said, a lot of time, to get over the emotional and physical trauma of being stabbed in the back during a changeover in a tournament at Hamburg, Germany on April 30, 1993. Perhaps the defining moment came recently in a conversation with her father, Karol, who doubles as her coach. Seles said she had been dragging around at home, depressed and troubled.

"He said, 'nothing in the world is worth it to me to see you this way.' I decided then it was time to move on and forget what happened," Seles said. "You have to live life. It's time to have fun and play great tennis."

"I feel ready to play, physically and emotionally."

She will do it, at the start at least, without benefit of a ranking, even though she was No. 1 when she was attacked. The WTA tour considered the idea of awarding her a co-No. 1 ranking with long-time rival Steffi Graf, then withdrew the offer. Seles said it made no difference to her.



Former world No. 1 Monica Seles bends low as she instructs special athlete Kim Mustafa (right) during a clinic at the Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Conn. (AP photo)

"I never asked for any ranking," she said. "It doesn't matter. I'm going to play either way. I'll take wild cards (invitations to play). I just want to go back and have fun. If I'm good, I'll be ranked."

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Seles was giggling frequently, signed autographs for the kids on shirts, caps, scraps of paper, anything they came up with. "They kept saying 'welcome back, Monica, it's great to see you.' That meant so much. I had my doubts. They're so smart, so forthcoming. They taught me something."

Seles said she expects it will take time before she gets back on top of her game. "I will need time to get used to the matches and the setting," she said.

There was never a question about coming back, she said. It was just a matter of when it would happen.

Asked if she thought her return would give a boost to the game, Seles smiled. "Women's tennis can survive without Monica Seles," she said. "And Monica Seles can survive without women's tennis. We're both better off with each other."

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Sports



Steffi Graf is protected by two policemen while after beating Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario leaving the Wimbledon Championships hours 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 (AFP photo)

Graf promises Wimbledon return

LONDON (R) — Steffi Graf sidestepped rumours she is contemplating retirement after the most exhausting Wimbledon final tussle of her career against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Saturday.

Graf, who came into the tournament nursing back and wrist injuries, admitted the two-hour struggle to secure her sixth Wimbledon singles title had left her close to collapse in the final set.

But the 26-year-old German, choosing her words carefully, indicated she would return to defend her title at the All England Club next June.

"I do hope to be back next year. I really count on that," she said, dismissing reports her back condition was threatening to curtail her career.

"I may be cutting down a little bit on tournaments, but I hope (the back's) not going to be in my way. It's been very exhausting the last few weeks and I intend to take some time off. Then I'm going to try and work more on my physical condition and build up to the U.S. Open."

Graf teased reporters after her semifinal win over Jana Novotna on Thursday, saying she would be announcing something significant in 10 days time.

She shed no further light on the matter on Saturday, but knows it would be the ultimate irony if she decided to call a halt just as Monica Seles is poised to return to the tournament scene after an absence of more than two years.

Since the infamous knife attack in Hamburg in April 1993, Graf has won six Grand Slam titles and now has a total of 17, one short of joining contemporary greats Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert on 18 major titles.

The latest triumph, though, was only settled deep into the third set after Sanchez Vicario had served with the score at 5-5.

Graf ultimately broke for 6-5, but only after 20 minutes of top-quality tennis which elevated the final to a position among the best.

"Never in my whole life have I played such a long game with so many high quality points," said Graf.

Graf profile

Steffi Graf was a four-year-old when she first picked up a tennis racket.

It was one of her father's and he sawed off part of the handle so that she could lift it.

From that moment Graf has never looked back.

She first hit major headlines in 1982, when, aged only 13, she won the German under-18 title and joined the professional ranks.

Her love of grass court tennis was clear from the moment she stepped out on court at the All England Club for the first time in 1984, and as she charged through to the fourth round, many observers were already being impressed by her tactical brain and powerful forehand.

Twelve months later she had broken into the top 10 and won eight titles — and in 1987 she dislodged Martina Navratilova from the top of the rankings.

She also beat the Czech-born American in the French Open final that year to win her first Grand Slam title.

The following year she made history with the first 'Golden' Grand Slam. She did this by adding the Olympic gold medal in Seoul to her victories at Melbourne, Paris, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow.

It was the first time a player had won all four major events since Australian Margaret Court in 1970.

With age catching up with Navratilova and Chris Evert, Graf's dominance over the women's game seemed complete, and she led the rankings for a record 186 weeks before she was deposed by Monica Seles.

Suddenly, the challenge was on.

Graf's only Grand Slam success in 1991 and 1992 came at Wimbledon. But in 1993 she re-asserted her authority in the perfect manner, bouncing back after losing to Seles in Australia to win the next three majors — although the absence of star-victim Seles played its part.

Only one Grand Slam (Melbourne) came her way in 1994 when Heinz Gundhardt replaced Pavel Slozil as her coach — and she also crashed out of Wimbledon in the first round.

A chronic back injury meant she could not defend her Australian title at the start of this year but since returning to the tour in February, she has been unbeatable. She has now won 32 consecutive matches.

Graf's 17 Grand Slam victories:

1987 French Open
1988 Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
1989 Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open
1990 Australian Open
1991 Wimbledon
1992 Wimbledon
1993 French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
1994 Australian Open
1995 French Open, Wimbledon

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NORTH	♦ A K Q 9 8 4 3	♦ 10 7 5 2	♦ 10 9 2
♦ 3 2	♦ A K	♦ 8 7 4	
Void	♦ 8 6	♦ Q 7 4	
♦ Q 10 8 5 3 2	♦ A R Q J 9 8 5	♦ J 6	
♦ A K J 5 3		♦ 6	
WEST	SOUTH		

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South West North East
1 ♦ 5 ♦ 5 ♦ Pass
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West led the king of hearts, ruffed in dummy. Declarer looked no further than the club finesse for the contract. The king of clubs was cashed, trumps were drawn and the ten of clubs was run to East's queen. The defenders then cashed a trick in each red suit—down one. The chances of clubs breaking 3-2 are not greater than 2-1. This should be all one needs to know to select the superior line. After ruffing the heart at trick one, declarer should simply lead a low club from the table. The best the defenders can do, as the cards lie, is cash a diamond. When declarer regains the lead, trumps are drawn and it ricks roll in.

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Damascus declaration slams Jewish settlements, backs Syria

MANAMA (AFP) — Syria, Egypt, and the six Arab Gulf states on Sunday called for a peace deal based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights and denounced Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

The eight countries, which signed the Damascus declaration aimed at boosting security and economic cooperation after the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, "renewed their support for Syria's just demands."

After a two-day meeting, they called for "a total withdrawal from the Golan beyond the June 4, 1967 (armistice) line," as demanded by Damascus. Israel occupied the Golan Heights

during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The eight countries also denounced Israel's "confiscation of land and expansion of settlements" on Palestinian territory as well as attempts to "change the topography" of Jerusalem.

They renewed their call for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and urged "Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

They also said Iraq "has not totally satisfied its obligations" to the United Nations imposed after a U.S.-led multinational coalition ejected Iraqi-Serb advances.

They said they were "concerned" about the situation in Somalia and in Afghanistan, urging the factions in

both countries to reach an understanding.

The eight urged the Chechens and Russians to "settle their differences through dialogue."

They agreed to meet "before September 1995" to finalise a document on reinforcing their cooperation.

The Damascus declaration was signed in March 1991 calling for Egyptian and Syrian military aid to the Gulf states in return for \$10 billion in economic assistance.

The six Gulf states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The declaration has yet to be implemented, although its signatories meet regularly to discuss Arab problems.

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt said Sunday that it had foiled an attempt to smuggle bomb-making material through Cairo international airport to Egyptian extremists in Sudan.

Airport security officials also announced they had discovered undeclared telecommunications equipment in a Sudanese diplomat's shipment.

At the same time, Egypt began enforcing new regulations by turning away eight Sudanese who arrived at Cairo international airport without visas. Until Sunday, Sudanese had been welcomed without permits in Egypt.

In Khartoum, Sudanese officials expressed regret over the visa situation but said they would not retaliate.

"The Sudan's doors will remain open to all Arabs without conditions," Sudanese government spokesman Abdul Basit Sabdar said.

The Sudanese Foreign

Egypt reports it blocked subversive material for Sudan

Ministry, meanwhile, criticised what it termed "a series of escalations by the Egyptian regime against Sudan."

It accused Egypt of violating aviation agreements by cutting Sudan Airways flights to Egypt to two per week, banning all Sudanese cargo flights and barring Sudan's national carrier from flying its traditional Cairo-Rome route.

Egypt has long accused Sudan of harbouring extremists who have waged a three-year insurgency to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

But tensions have been rising since gunmen on June 26 attempted to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as he arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to attend an African summit.

The officials said a diplomat had informed Egyptian officials he was bringing a television, a radio and a video recorder.

be isolated until it abandons policies that threaten neighbouring countries.

In the latest allegation against Sudan, Egyptian airport officials said they had stopped a shipment of bomb-making literature and equipment headed to Egyptian radicals in Sudan. The shipment also included fake Egyptian stamps and special ink used on official documents, they said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shipment came from a foreign country they would not name. They refused to disclose other details.

In a separate incident, airport security forces confiscated wireless telecommunications equipment being brought into Egypt by a diplomat assigned to the Sudanese embassy.

The officials said a diplomat had informed Egyptian officials he was bringing a television, a radio and a video recorder.

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For the first time, municipal elections all over the Kingdom are taking place on the same day following the enactment last year of a new municipalities law.

The government last year dissolved all elected city councils, replacing them by appointed temporary councils ahead of the elections.

Abdul Ra'ouf Tal, president of Al Ehsan Islamic bloc in Irbid, said he supports the amendments as a necessary experience that should be tried everywhere.

"The elections will enable voters to shoulder more responsibilities when electing their candidates and raises their freedom of choice when voting," he said.

Mr. Tal, an attorney, said that his bloc will focus on ensuring justice and providing

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Queen Victoria may have been illegitimate

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901 may have been illegitimate and therefore not entitled to reign, according to two British researchers who have studied the sovereign's background and forebears.

Malcolm and William Potts, lecturers at Lancaster University in England and Berkeley (California) say none of Victoria's ancestors

was affected by the haemophilia which she transmitted her children. The two, who studied the medical histories of eight generations of Victoria's ancestors concluded that unless there had been a genetic mutation, the chances of which they put at "one in 50,000," Victoria must have been the result of an extra-marital affair by her mother.

"In the end, it's a question we could not answer. But if I were in a court of law, I would say there's a reasonable chance Victoria was illegitimate. DNA testing is the solution," Malcolm Potts told the Sunday Times. The Potts brothers said the theory of an extra-marital affair was plausible because at the time the three sons of George III who were all married were vying with each other to produce an heir. They said it was possible that Victoria's father the Duke of Kent, who was then over 50, may have encouraged his wife to take a lover in order to increase her chances of becoming pregnant.

Charles opposed ambassador role for Diana

AMMAN (AFP) — Prince Charles "objected" to a plan two years ago to make his estranged wife Princess Diana an ambassador at large.

Prince Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thabet and Amman Governor Talat Nawashy to protest against such practices. But they were all "in vain," he said.

The government people are also threatening shopkeepers if they hang up posters or banners for Islamist candidates inside or outside their shops," Mr. Owaida claimed. "These practices are clear in Mafraq, Tafleeh and Jenin."

Dr. Owaida said that the front would take an "action" if these "malpractices and harassment" of Islamists continue.

He did not specify what kind of action will the front adopt.

"We do not resort to violence and this is definitely not our style or means," he said. "But we are fed up with memos and letters."

IAF accuses government of 'undemocratic' actions ahead of municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards fired rockets at a camp of an Iranian exile group in Iraq but caused no damage or casualties, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq organisation said on Sunday.

The Mujahedeen, which opposes the Tehran government, said Iranian guards had penetrated up to 90 kilometres into Iraqi territory and attacked the group's main camp, Al Ashraf, which is about 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

"This morning at 4:15 a.m. the mullah's regime carried out an abortive ground attack on Ashraf camp," the group said in a statement handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad.

This latest attack is likely to further strain relations between Iraq and Iran who fought a ruinous war from 1980-88.

The official press on Sunday carried a message from Iraq's Foreign Ministry to the United Nations accusing Iran of violating a U.N.-brokered ceasefire halting hostilities in 1988.

The message said Iranian helicopter gunships violated Iraqi airspace and Tehran was fortifying border positions within "the security zone" between the two countries.

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